*(handwritten in left margin, vertical)* INTERVIEW RECORD OK /s/ 5-16-04

## REMARKS

Supplementing the amendments and remarks made in the January 20, 2004, Response to Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, 14 and 23 and added new claims 32-35. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 10-24 and 31-35 will be pending.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Maki to Applicant's representative during the telephone interview of January 26, 2004. No agreement was reached during the interview, but the outstanding rejections were reviewed and Examiner Maki indicated that any supplemental amendments would be considered if received before action was taken on the January 20, 2004, Response. As indicated during the interview, a summary of the interview need not be submitted with this response and is therefore not included.

### Amended Specification

In the specification, the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7, has been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

### Amended Claims 13 and 14

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended in response to the Office action's rejection of those claims under § 112 and further in response to suggestions given by Examiner Maki in the January 26, 2004, interview. As amended, claims 13 and 14 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection as to claims 13 and 14 is respectfully requested.

### Amended Claims 1 and 23

Independent claims 1 and 23 are amended to include the recitation of "the tear depth being...at least 0.5 mm" and other related features.

The applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 23. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection as to claims 1 and 23 are respectfully requested.

Japan '710, Caretta and Japan '418, whether considered alone or in combination, do not teach or even suggest a tear depth as recited in claims 1 and 23. Specifically, the references do not show a web tearing into a tear depth down from the outer surface of the tread with the tear